"Recycle them"

or

"eCycle!"

"eCycle" is a new term that refers to the recycling of consumer electronics.

What are consumer electronics?

- Computers
- Computer Monitors
- Televisions
- Computer Peripherals
- VCR/DVD players
- Video Game Consoles
- Video Cameras
- Fax/Copy Machines
- Cellular Phones
- Wireless Devices
- Audio/Stereo Equipment

Why eCycle?

1

It is good for public health and the environment.

Computers, televisions, and other electronic equipment contain hazardous materials, such as lead mercury, and chromium. If improperly handled or if incinerated, these toxics can be released into the air or water.

2

It saves landfill space.

As a result of fast technology cycles, electronic goods have been rapidly adding significant volume to municipal waste streams.

3

The state you are in may ban the disposal in landfills or waste incinerators.

For example, Massachusetts bans the disposal of glass cathode ray tubes, found in computer monitors and tvs in landfills and waste incinerators because of their high lead content.

What happens to old computers and tvs when they are eCycled?

In some cases, they may be reused by a charity or school, or they may be taken apart and recycled.

The parts are reused in many different ways:

- **GLASS**: The glass cathode ray tube (CRT) may be returned to a manufacturer to be made into a new CRT, or sent to a smelter where the lead is recovered and recycled.

- **PLASTIC**: The plastic housing is ground to smaller pieces and recycled for use in items such as retaining blocks and pothole mix.

- **ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS**: Circuit boards, chips, and other parts can be reused to repair or upgrade older electronics or recycled for their scrap value.

- **METAL**: Metal components are separated and sold for their scrap value.

1. AT A LOCAL ECYCLING COLLECTION SITE.

Check with your local and state solid waste recycling programs for specifics.

2. THROUGH A COMPUTER COMPANY OR OTHER ECYCLER.

For example, IBM has an eCycle program that charges approximately $30.00 and accepts any computer. Also, your local or state waste recycling programs may have a recycling directory or other information on eCyclers.
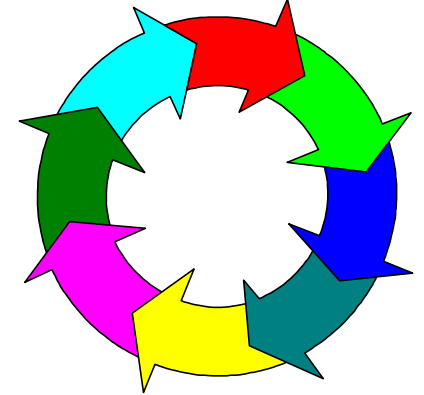
3. DONATE THEM.

Examples include: Goodwill Industries [www.goodwill.org]; and Students Recycling Used Technology (StRUT) [www.strut.org]. Check with your local and state solid waste recycling programs for specifics.

For further information contact:

Office of Environment and Energy
Environment, Energy, & Employee Safety Division
AEE-200
202-267-3553
http://www.aee.faa.gov/aee-200

Computer & Electronics Recycling